

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T PARIS 006974

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR, INR, EB/IFD/ODF AND EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/11/2025

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [HA](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: HAITI: BIO INFO ON NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR

REF: MERTEN-GRIFFITHS E-MAILS

Classified By: ECON KENNETH MERTEN FOR REASONS 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) As part of an office call to discuss France's "co development" policy (septel), Econ Couns and intern met on 5 October with the newly named French Ambassador to Haiti, Christian Connan. Connan said he is looking forward to his new assignment, which will start in January. He asked Econ Couns for a frank assessment of GOF policy towards Haiti. Econ Couns told him that the USG appreciated the effective cooperation with the GOF on the elections and development agenda, and particularly appreciated the work the GOF was attempting to do with the EU and the European Commission in urging them to be more flexible in their disbursements with the IGOH. Connan said that an old friend of his in the Canadian diplomatic service told him, "Frankly France does nothing in Haiti," and leaves most of the work to Canada and the U.S. He said he was trying to get a "true" picture of what allies thought of France's efforts there.

2. (S) We found Connan very friendly but not particularly dynamic. His areas of expertise are Germany and development issues. He had several tours in Germany in the 1980's and early 1990's, has a doctorate in German studies, and noted with great pride that he was the first French diplomat ever to participate in an exchange program with Germany. He is currently head of MFA's "Co development" (giving money and training to illegal immigrants and returning them to their country of origin to start businesses and create jobs) office, where he's been since 2002. He appears to have been closely associated with the Socialists and has spent the last several years in the "wilderness." Presumably he is once again seen as "safe," hence this new appointment. Prior to being the "Co development coordinator," Connan served as France's Ambassador to Mali from 1998-2002.

3. (C) Connan, born in Dunkirk on 18 October 1947, started his professional life as a German teacher (1974 - 1980) after which he attended ENA (Ecole nationale d'administration) from '82-84. After joining the diplomatic service in 1984 he went to the Defense Ministry where he worked on the staff of Minister Charles Hernu (a confidant of Mitterand, who, according to L'Express magazine was a well-paid KGB/Bulgarian mole starting in at least 1953, and who resigned after the Greenpeace "Rainbow Warrior" incident in the south Pacific) and his successor Paul Quils.

4. (SBU) Connan said he wanted to meet again with Econ Couns closer to his departure for Port-au-Prince to discuss Haiti and U.S.-GOF coordination. Please visit Paris' Classified Website at: <http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm> STAPLETON